



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

AREA
FORMAZIONE E DOTTORATO

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
ALMA MATER STUDIORUM – UNIVERSITÀ
DI BOLOGNA
CHINA SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL
JOINT SELECTION

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027

Application deadline: January 12th, 2026 – 1:00 pm (CET)

The Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna (hereinafter referred to as University of Bologna) and the China Scholarship Council (hereinafter referred to as CSC) are inviting applications from Chinese students for the PhD Programmes of the 42nd cycle.

Art. 1 – PhD Programme

PhD Programmes at University of Bologna have an official duration of 3 or 4 years (depending on the programme).

Each applicant can select one PhD Programme only, from the current offer available on the [University portal](#). The University of Bologna will award a PhD Degree, after successfully completing all PhD requirements, including the successful defense of the Thesis as provided by the PhD Programmes Regulation available on the [University website](#).

Art. 2 – Eligibility requirements

Applicants must hold a **Chinese citizenship**.

Applicants can be considered for the selection procedure if they have been awarded at least one of the following degrees:

- a) Laurea Magistrale/Magistrale a ciclo unico (Italian Second-Cycle degree)
- b) A Second-Cycle Degree awarded by academic institutions part of AFAM (Alta Formazione Artistica e Musicale);
- c) A non-Italian Degree awarded by an academic institution, recognized equivalent to the above-mentioned second-cycle Italian degrees (letters a, b) - EQF Level 7. Non-Italian degrees must be submitted in their original language, with official transcripts and translations into Italian or English.

Applicants who are yet to obtain their Second-Cycle Degree are admitted to the selections on condition they obtain their degree no later than October 31st, 2026.

CSC may fix additional requirements, therefore please refer to the official website for specific information:

<https://www.csc.edu.cn/>

RESPONSABILE DEL PROCEDIMENTO: ROSSELLA TABARONI
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Art. 3 – Language requirements

Applicants must satisfy one of the following **English or Italian language** requirements, **according to the official language of the PhD programme** of their choice:

- Having obtained an **academic qualification** (bachelor's degree or higher) in English or Italian;
- Having **studied** in a Country, where English or Italian is spoken, for at least one academic year (8-12 months) or having **worked** in a Country, where English or Italian is spoken, for at least one consecutive year in the last ten years;
- Having passed the 'National Foreign Language Proficiency Test (**WSK**)' for the English language;
- Having obtained an **IELTS** (Academic) certification with a total score of **at least 6.5**;
- Having obtained a **TOEFL** (IBT) certification with a test score of **at least 95**;
- Having obtained a **level B2 or higher Italian** language certification from the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR/CECRL);
- Having obtained an **intermediate level Italian or advanced level English** language certificate issued by the Training Centers for Overseas Study accredited by the Ministry of Education of China.

Art. 4 – Funding

The PhD positions are **entirely funded by the China Scholarship Council - CSC**.

No additional funding will be provided by the University of Bologna.

Applicants must comply with all CSC scholarship rules and procedures.

Art. 5 – How to apply

The online applications must be **submitted by January 12th, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. CET**.

No application fee is required.

Applications must be submitted through [Studenti Online](#) only.

For first time users, registration will be required. After registering, applicants will receive their credentials, i.e. name.surname@studio.unibo.it.

Applicants who already have said credentials must use them to apply. If the credentials have not been used for a long time, an account recovery procedure is available on the [University website](#).

To submit their application, applicants shall:

1. **Access** [Studenti Online](#) and log in using their credentials;
2. **Select** “Admission application” and follow the online procedure for the “China Scholarship Council - Unibo Joint Programme”.
3. **Fill in** the first part of the application form, to access the attachments upload section (applicants are allowed to access their application several times, to complete or modify it, up to the submission);
4. **Upload** the required documents, as detailed below, exclusively in .pdf format. Applicants will not be able to upload any supporting document after the deadline of this call; after providing all the required information and documents the application will show the status “Application filled in: You can submit the application”;
5. Select “**Submit**”, to finalize the application.

Documents to be mandatorily uploaded:

1. **Identity document** with photo and translation in Italian or English;
2. **CV** (in Italian or English);
3. **Research project** (in Italian or English);
4. For applicants with **degrees** awarded in **Italy**: (**bachelor's** and **master's** degrees or combined-cycle degree), a **self-certification** dated and signed attesting the completion and awarding of the degree, containing a list of exams taken and the corresponding grade, the title of the thesis and grade. For applicants with **degrees** awarded **abroad**: (**bachelor's** and **master's** degrees or combined cycle degree) documents attesting the completion and awarding of second-cycle degrees. The documents must include name of the awarding institution, type of degree, name of the degree programme, date when the degree has been awarded, final mark, academic transcript of records, including the full list of the exams taken and the related marks. Please also indicate CFU or ECTS (if provided by the education system in which the degree has been awarded).
5. Italian or English **language certificate**, as indicated in art. 3 – Language requirements.

In addition, applicants will be asked to declare if in contact with a University of Bologna professor (this is not a mandatory requirement. If not in contact and yet, funded by CSC, the PhD Programme Academic Board will assign the PhD candidate a Supervisor).

Art. 6 – Selection Procedure

Applicants will be selected based on their qualifications, CV, language knowledge and aptitude to carry out research as well as the assessment of their knowledge on the research fields of the PhD programme of their choice, according to the following procedure:

- **pre-selection by the University of Bologna** (evaluation of qualifications, documentation, research project, and suitability for the PhD Programme);
- **final selection by the China Scholarship Council**: assessment based on CSC rules, criteria, and conditional scholarship application.

For more information on the CSC final selection, please refer to the CSC website and application portal: <https://www.csc.edu.cn/>

At the end of the Unibo pre-selection, the shortlist of pre-selected candidates will be forwarded to CSC.

Only applicants shortlisted by the University of Bologna will be able to access the final CSC selection and apply for funding.

Tentative timeline:

November 25th, 2025 – January 12th, 2026 → applicants can express their interest on Studenti Online;

January 13th, 2026 – January 16th, 2026 → the PhD Unit will check and process all applications;

January 19th, 2026 – February 28th, 2026 → the PhD Programme Coordinator will assess applications;

March 2nd, 2026 – March 6th, 2026 → applicants will receive the pre-selection results by the PhD Unit.

Shortlisted applicants will receive all documents needed to apply for the CSC scholarship (invitation letter, research project signed by the Coordinator or the Supervisor, signed CV in English of both the Coordinator and the Supervisor).

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July 2026 → applicants who will successfully award a PhD scholarship from CSC, will receive communication by the CSC and the University of Bologna.

September 2026 → awarding applicants will be enrolled as extra-quota position.

Art. 7 – Enrolment

7.1 Enrolment procedure

Successful candidates will be contacted by the PhD Unit of the University of Bologna for the enrolment procedure.

PhD candidates must pay the **enrolment charges** for each academic year, including insurance premium (€ 1,04), stamp duty (€ 16,00) and the regional tax (of € 140,00) for the right to higher education. The current amount of the enrolment charges is **€157.04**. Such amount could vary, due to the decision of the competent bodies. The amount of tuition fees is established by the Board of Governors of the University of Bologna.

For PhD Candidates funded by CSC **no tuition fees are envisaged** for attending PhD programmes.

Upon enrolment, candidates must submit, only if already in possession:

- a) (for non-Italian citizens only) **tax code certificate** issued by the Italian Revenue Agency (Agenzia delle Entrate);
- b) (for non-EU citizens only) **valid residence permit** or receipt of the residence permit application;
- c) (for candidates who have been awarded with a non-Italian second level degree after the deadline of the Call) **degree awarding certificate**, indicating the following data: University name, graduation date, type of degree (in Italy laurea magistrale or magistrale a ciclo unico or an equivalent degree as specified in Art. 2) and final mark;
- d) (for candidates awarded with a non-italian second level degree) **document attesting the authenticity and the comparability of the qualification awarded** (e. g. Diploma Supplement, Declaration of Value - Dichiarazione di Valore in loco - of the second-cycle degree issued by the Italian Diplomatic authorities located in the country in which the qualification was awarded, recognition of foreign qualifications carried out by agencies like the ones of ENIC-NARIC network). If such document has been uploaded in the admission application, candidates are not required to submit it again.

7.2 Conditional enrolment

If, at the registration stage, the candidate is unable to submit some of the above-mentioned documents, **their registration will be accepted under condition.**

Upon enrolment, those who are **yet to obtain the degree granting access to PhD programmes** (see Art. 2) are conditionally enrolled. After the completion of their studies and **before November 1st, 2026**, they have to send to aform.udottricerca@unibo.it a self-certification (or official certification, if the degree has been obtained either in EU or non-EU foreign countries, or if the degree has been awarded at an Italian private University).

PhD candidates holding a **non-Italian citizenship**, who at the enrolment phase are not in possession of the documents listed above (see Art. 7.1), are conditionally enrolled. To lift the reservation on their enrolment, they are required to send to aform.udottricerca@unibo.it a scanned copy of the following documents:

- a) Italian **Tax Code** Certificate issued by Italian Revenue Agency (Agenzia delle Entrate);

b) (for non-EU citizens) Valid **residence permit**. Those who are not in possession of this document must apply for it within 8 days from their arrival to Italy. For more information, please follow the instructions on the University website. Applicants must send the receipt issued by the Immigration Office - Questura at the moment of the request of the Residence permit (permesso di soggiorno).

PhD candidates with a **degree issued by non-Italian institutions** are conditionally enrolled. They must provide a **document attesting the authenticity and the comparability of the qualification awarded** (e. g. Diploma Supplement, Declaration of Value - Dichiarazione di Valore in loco - of the second-cycle degree issued by the Italian Diplomatic authorities located in the country in which the qualification was awarded, recognition of foreign qualifications carried out by agencies like the ones of ENIC-NARIC network). Those who have not provided such documents during the application step shall submit them after the enrolment, within three months from the starting date of the PhD programme. For information on the specific documentation to be submitted, please consult the following page on the University Portal: [Translation, authenticity and value of foreign qualifications](#).

The University reserves the right to check the original documents. The suitability of non-Italian degrees is established by the University, following the legislation into force both in Italy and in the Country where the qualification has been awarded, and under the relevant international treaties or agreements dealing with the recognition of academic qualifications for access to further studies.

Applicants holding a non-Italian degree, who do not show the requested documents upon application or enrolment, will be excluded from the PhD Programme if they do not provide the required documents or if, based on the evaluation carried out, the qualification provided were not to meet the admission requirements referred to in Art. 2.

7.3 Information for applicants in need of a VISA

After the enrolment process, applicants who require a study VISA for Italy must register on the [University website](#) and carry out the “pre-enrolment” to the PhD programme, following the indicated procedure to obtain the VISA.

Art. 8 – Compatibility and Incompatibility

Attending a PhD programme implies a full-time and exclusive commitment for PhD candidates.

More information on PhD programme attendance and the related compatibility/incompatibility rules are disciplined by the University PhD Programme Regulation.

Art. 9 – Processing of personal data

In accordance with Art. 13 of the EU Regulation 2016/679, the processing of the personal data provided by the applicants, participating in the selection procedure, or acquired for this purpose, by the University aims to carry out only the activities of the selection procedure. Data will be managed by the people in charge of the selection procedure, including the Admission Boards, in the manner and within the limits necessary to achieve the above-mentioned purposes, and may also be communicated to third parties. The legal basis of the treatment is to be found in articles 6, paragraph 1, letter c) (processing for legal obligations) and e) (processing for reasons of public interest) and 9, paragraph 2, letter g) (processing for reasons of public interest) of Regulation EU 2016/ 679. The provision of data is essential to allow enrollment and any refusal to provide them will make it impossible to proceed with any admission to PhD programmes.

The University will keep and use the personal data and contacts provided by the PhD candidates enrolled to the University, also after the completion of the selection procedures, for operational, administrative,

accounting and/or other purposes related to the management of institutional activities and legal obligations, as well as for the disclosure of any opportunities to the successful applicants (scholarships, awards, etc.).

Applicants have the right to access their personal data, to request amendments, elimination, limitation of treatment, as well as to object to the processing of the above-mentioned data by addressing their requests to privacy@unibo.it.

Those who believe that the processing of their personal data is in violation of the provisions of the Regulation mentioned above may lodge a complaint to the Authority for data processing (in Italian Garante) or refer to the competent court.

The data holder is Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna (registered office: via Zamboni n. 33, 40126 - Bologna, Italy; e-mail: privacy@unibo.it; PEC: scriviunibo@pec.unibo.it).

The contact details of the Personal Data Protection Officer are: registered office, via Zamboni n. 33, 40126 - Bologna, Italy; e-mail: dpo@unibo.it; PEC: scriviunibo@pec.unibo.it.

For further information, please consult the information available on the [University website](#).

Art. 10 – Legal framework concerning doctoral studies

For anything not covered by the present Call, refer to the current University PhD Programme Regulation. By applying for the admission to a PhD programme at the University of Bologna through the online procedure referred to in Art. 4, applicants tacitly agree to be subject to the rules of the present Call, the University PhD Programme Regulation in addition to the specific obligations foreseen in the relevant funding scheme and in the relevant regulations applying to each specific PhD position.

Art. 11 – Procedure Manager

For all purposes pertaining to this call, the Unit in charge is the Education and PhD Administrative Division - PhD Unit – Via Irnerio, 49 - 40126 Bologna.

Information and clarifications on the application submission can be addressed by e-mail to aform.udottricerca@unibo.it.

The Procedure Manager is Ms. Francesca Cottone.